

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/724,330	CHENG, HUI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jingge Wu	2623	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the response filed on 4/20/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. The drawings filed on 29 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

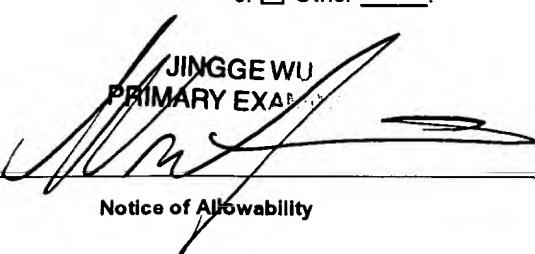
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/01/04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

Applicants' response to the last Office Action, filed on April 20, 2005 has been entered and made of record.

Applicant's argument is persuasive, thus, the requirement of election/restriction issued on January 18, 2005 is expressly withdrawn.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, and 9 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-8, and 10-17 depend from claims 1 and 9 respectively, therefore, are allowed.

Independent claim 1 recites the limitations of : segmenting the block of pixels into a plurality layers using two distinct methods; compressing the segmented blocks of pixels separately; determining a bit rate and corresponding distortion; and selecting an optimal comprise between the two segmenting methods. The combination of these features as cited in the claims in combination with the other limitations of the claims, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The closest reference of the article to Cheng discloses a method of compressing images using segmentation and the rate-distortion calculation. However, he does not teach the limitations of cited above.

Independent claim 9 recites the limitations of : an image compression system comprises a processing bank with a array of processors, each performs segmenting and coding of an image and calculating distortions; and an optimal engine selecting an optimization distortion measurements from selecting the first processor having an optimized compromise between the rate and distortion measurements.

engine which receives each pair of the rate and the first processors, . The combination of these features as cited in the claims in combination with the other limitations of the claims, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The closest reference of US 6236757 to Zeng et al. discloses a method of compressing images using segmentation and the rate-distortion calculation. He uses joint coder to optimally code joint region to achieve the optimal distortion. However, he does not teach the limitations of cited above.

In view of the amended claims and the Applicant's arguments , the rejections to claims 1-17 are expressly withdrawn.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Jingge Wu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7429. He can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The examiner can be also reached on second alternate Fridays.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to TC customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au, can be reached at (571) 272-7414.

The Working Group Fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Jingge Wu

Primary Patent Examiner